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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W
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R 121107Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2472
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL TANGIER
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, MO
SUBJECT:
KING ANNOUNCES OCTOBER OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

REF: RABAT 3443

1. IN TRADITIONAL BIRTHDAY SPEECH JULY 8, KING FOCUSSED ON OPENING OF NEW PARLIAMENT, WHICH HE ANNOUNCED FOR OCTOBER. PRAISING MOROCCAN PEOPLE FOR MATURE BEHAVIOR DURING EIGHT-MONTH ELECTORAL PROCESS WHICH CULMINATED IN JUNE, KING SAW ACCRUED PRESTIGE FOR MOROCCO AMONG NATIONS.

2. REGARDING SPECIAL INAUGURAL SESSION WHICH HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED FOR EARLY JULY, KING NOTED THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO LAUNCH PARLIAMENT RIGHT AWAY. HOWEVER, CONSTITUTION STIPULATED
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THAT PARLIAMENT COULD FUNCTION LEGALLY ONLY AFTER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES CHOSEN, AND THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED ONLY ONCE A YEAR AT THE OCTOBER SESSION. WHILE CONSTITUTION PERMITTED KING TO ALTER THIS PROCEDURE, HE HAD NOT WANTED TO DO SO BECAUSE OF HIS "ARDENT DESIRE TO RESPECT THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND." THEREFORE, AFTER RAMADAN AND DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, HE WOULD PROCLAIM THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT AND EXPECTED AT THAT TIME TO

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SPEAK TO THE BODY.

3. ADDRESSING THE NEW DEPUTIES, KING WENT ON TO URGE THEM TO RESPECT THE DIGNITY AND PERSONALITY OF THE ELECTORATE AND TO PROVE THEMSELVES WORTHY OF THE CONFIDENCE PLACED IN THEM. "AS IT DOES NOT RAIN GOLD LOUIS," CONSIDERABLE HARD WORK WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAMS. THE DEPUTIES SHOULD USE THE PERIOD BEFORE OCTOBER FOR REFLECTION AND STUDY OF THE FILES IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO BEGIN WORK QUICKLY IN OCTOBER ON THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND FINANCE LAW, BOTH OF WHICH COULD NOT SUFFER THE LEAST DELAY. DEPUTIES WOULD ALSO BE GETTING INTO OTHER "INTERNAL, REGIONAL AND EXTERNAL" QUESTIONS, KING INDICATED.

4. ALTHOUGH SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN HEADLINED THE SPEECH, "SOLEMN ROYAL WARNING TO THE ADVERSARIES OF THE MOROCCAN PEOPLE," THE KING'S REMARKS, DIGNIFIED AND PHILOSOPHICAL THROUGHOUT, MADE NO REFERENCE TO ALGERIA OR OTHER FOES. INSTEAD, KING EXALTED TRADITIONAL MOROCCAN VIRTUES -- BRAVERY, ASSISTANCE TO FRIENDS, AND DEVOTION TO LIBERTY AND ISLAM -- ENDING WITH TRIBUTE TO THE PERFECT COMMUNION EXISTING BETWEEN MONARCHY AND PEOPLE.

5. COMMENT: AS OF THE END OF JUNE, SOME POLITICIANS WERE STILL EXPECTING AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF PARLIAMENT IN EARLY JUNE (REFTEL), AND WE UNDERSTAND KING'S DECISION TO WAIT UNTIL OCTOBER SURFACED AT RECENT CABINET MEETING. ACCORDING TO CONSTITUTION, PARLIAMENT IS TO CONVENE OCTOBER 14 (SECOND FRIDAY). MEANWHILE,
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CABINET SHIFT IS STILL EXPECTED SOON BEFORE CONVENING OF PARLIAMENT, POSSIBLY IN LATE AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER.
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